

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel withdrawn claims 1-5 and 10-19.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Charles Mirho on 11/3/2011.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. **Claims 6-9 and 20-23** are allowed. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The present invention comprises a content on demand system that includes a server, a plurality of service nodes, and a plurality of set top boxes, where the server composes set top box configuration information into audio/video stream and transmits it to service nodes; service node inserts service group identifier into the stream received from the server and transmits the service group identifier and the configuration information to a plurality of set top boxes; set top box transmits program request to the server, where the request includes the service group identifier and identifier of a program title and the server transmits the audio/video stream to a service node corresponding to the service group identifier.

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The closest prior art, Jerding, Krause, and Thiagarajan show a similar system. However, Jerding discloses an interactive media services system to provide a plurality of media to a user through an interactive media services client device coupled to a programmable media services server device; Krause discloses an advanced multiplexer that is designed for next generation on-demand video distribution; and Thiagarajan discloses the content information is implemented as XML file and added with media content. Thus, Jerding, Krause, and Thiagarajan do not disclose nor suggest composing a service group identifier into an audio and/or video stream format, and communicating the configuration information with a service group identifier to set top boxes, and the set top boxes communicating the service group identifier in a VOD request, as required by all the independent claims.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- US Patent 8,037,504 to Jerding
- US Patent 8,032,910 to Lewis
- US Patent 7,376,829 to Ranjan
- US PG Pub 2007/0261089 to Aaby
- US PG Pub 2007/0220580 to Putterman
- US Patent 7,089,577 to Rakib
- US PG Pub 2005/0091699 to Poli

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- US PG Pub 2004/0133907 to Rodriguez
- US Patent 6,697,376 to Son
- US Patent 6,532,591 to Arai
- US PG Pub 2002/0059619 to Lebar
- US Patent 5,784,464 to Akiyama
- US Patent 5,666,293 to Metz

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PINKAL CHOKSHI whose telephone number is (571) 270-3317. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8 - 5 pm (Alt. Friday off). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Pendleton can be reached on 571-272-7527. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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